GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2537
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
T.V. CHANNEL
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, `News break aur khandan ke Beech Phase T.V. Channel` appearing in the `Janasatta` dated December 9, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the effective policy being formulated or proposed to be formulated by the Government to check the recurrence by this kind of situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF TH DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT
(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a): Yes Sir. It is, however, stated that the said news item was published in the `Jansatta`, New Delhi dated December 29, 1999 and not December 9, 1999.

(b): The report highlights the contradictions and discrepancies in the news coverage by the private TV channels, relating to the recent hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane.

(c)&(d): Inadequacy and shortcomings of coverage of the hijacking event by private TV channels have been discussed in various fora. The Government is committed to the freedom of the media, and expects them to conduct themselves in a responsible manner.